

Leicester. May 30. 1858.

Dear Mrs. Gibbons,

Your letter reached me in Boston on Friday. I had no opportunity to confer with Mr. Garrison as to its contents, before coming here yesterday afternoon. — I expect to be in Boston again by the middle of the present week, and will seek an early conversation with him about it, — when I shall hope to write to you again.

It would have afforded me much satisfaction to have met you, and got your views as to the best ways and means of obtaining the money needful for carrying on the work of the American Anti-Slavery Society. It is a critical question just now, and I hope will receive the best and most unbiassed judgment of our best minds everywhere.

Now that the Boston Bazaar appears to have been abolished, — in such a summary way as befits anything better than the genius and spirit of our cause, — the Fairs at Philadelphia & New York become of increased importance and interest.

I have not, at any time, given much attention to the particular manner in which either of these Fairs has been conducted, and do not feel familiar with the views of those who manage them. — I cheerfully admit that those, in either City, who have the management of them, must be supposed to understand best the circumstances in which they are placed, and their judgment is of course entitled to all deference. Still, with some experience to help me, and the observation of several such fairs carried on in different parts of the country, — some of them on the general plan of your New York fair, of raising funds for several objects, — I am fully of the opinion that it is ultimately wisest and best, in our movement, for the Abolitionists proper to have but a single aim in such fairs, and to ask for money for the single object of direct aggression upon Slavery in its Strongholds. The stronger and more perseveringly this is urged, the surer will it be that a class will arise to sustain all lesser and subsidiary movements. Thousands will be thereby shamed into helping Fugitives, or will do it as a salvo to

their consciences, which can only be reached by having their whole and highest duty fully, and faithfully, and uncompromisingly set before them. I believe that wherever the most direct and un-
mixed Antislavery work is done, there will also be the greatest number of those who, at all different stages and degrees, are leaving the pro-slavery ranks, & advancing forward. These will prove a cover to fugitives, and will man the subordinate posts. And even many a man, pro-slavery by position & connection & profession, will be induced or shamed, into helping the outcast, and doing somewhat for the elevation of the coloured people, in a community where the whole truth & course of Antislavery are fearlessly & continually administered.

In all respect, therefore, to the judgment of the New York ladies, I would say that it seems to me more than ever important at this ~~crisis~~ time that their efforts should all tend to the direct aid of the American Society.

The Vigilance Committee's operations are indispensable. In Boston, may I say, our Vig. Com. operations are and always have been distinct from

the A. S. Society, though the efficient persons in both are, to a great extent, the same. Their funds are gathered from time to time, by direct appeal — by circular letters sent to individuals, & to churches throughout the State, &c., &c. The fugitives with you of course greatly outnumber those with us. — But on this point I need not enlarge.

I cannot doubt that ladies might be found in Boston, who would most gladly go on & aid you in New York, — not with a view to mislead you, as you kindly say, but to add their efforts to yours, now that the Boston Bazaar is no more. But more on this point after I have seen Mr. Garrison.

As to the goods, there is a fair lot left from the Bazaar & late Sale. These are in part relied upon, I suppose, for fair at Worcester, Weymouth, & Abington. They are in Mrs. Chapman's charge. I cannot doubt that a share of the might be had for any Fair, held for the direct purpose of aiding the American Anti-Slavery Society. As they were given expressly for that object, I suppose they could be used for that only. — Our English friends, I have understood, are proposing to direct their contributions this year to Philadelphia. I should think they would gladly send a portion elsewhere, indeed that they would prefer to have a portion go to New York, to a fair held in behalf of the Treasury of the American A. S. Society, solely.

With sincere respect.

Yrs. &c.

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 16, p. 98